GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:357
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2015
Air Pollutants
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per a new study published in the journal "Atmospheric Environment" on air pollution in Delhi, the city suffers from a "toxic blend of geography, growth, poor energy sources and unfavourable weather that boosts its dangerously high levels of air pollutants, including ultra-fine particles, the most harmful to human health";
(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to protect the population from health-endangering pollutants;
(c) whether the study report has also predicted that the number of road vehicles would increase from 4.7 million in 2010 to nearly 26 million by 2030; and
(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by Government to control the increasing pollution levels and improve increase the air quality in Delhi?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a)Studies are published on different thematic areas in various journals from time to time which represents views of authors and in most cases these are not conclusive and needs further scientific scrutiny. In case of Delhi, the key pollutant which exceeds the permissible value relates to Particulate Matter. Other pollutants like Sulphur dioxide(SO2)and Nitrogen dioxide(NO2) are generally below the permissible limits. The high value of Particulate Matter (PM) in Delhi is due to many reasons including geo-climatic conditions, road dust, vehicular emission, construction activity, burning of biomass etc.

(b) Pursuant to the meetings held by the Ministry with the Ministers of Environment of NCT of Delhi and neighbouring States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, the State/UT Governments have formulated action plans. The action plans submitted to mitigate pollution in Delhi/NCR by these States/UT include strict enforcement of vehicular pollution norms, banning/enforcement of ban of burning of crop residue/biomass/municipal garbage, levying of environment compensation charge, construction of Western and Eastern Peripheral Expressways, expansion of metro network, strengthening of public transport system, installation of 24X7 emission monitoring devices, extensive use of clean fuels, promotion of battery operated vehicles etc.

(c)&(d) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has predicted that the number of vehicles on road will increase from 4.7 million in 2010 to nearly 26 million by 2030.

(e) To minimize the impact of environmental pollution particularly air pollution, the Government has inter alia taken the following actions:
â€¢ Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards 2009, envisaging 12 pollutants;
â€¢ Formulation of regulations/statutes;
â€¢ Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality;
â€¢ Introduction of cleaner/alternate fuel like CNG, LPG etc. and promotion of public transport network including Metro;
â€¢ Creation of infrastructure for industrial pollution control incorporating cleaner production processes, setting up of common pollution control facilities;

Realizing the gravity of pollution, further steps taken by the government to address pollution, include the following:
â€¢ Launching of Clean India Mission (Swatch Bharat Abhiyan);
â€¢ Draft Rules for handing and management of municipal waste have been notified for comments of stakeholders;
â€¢ Standards for sewage treatment plants have been notified for comments of stakeholders;
â€¢ Implementation of Bharat Stage IV norms expanded to 63 selected cities and Bharat Stage III norms in rest of the country;
â€¢ National Air Quality index was launched by the Prime Minister in April, 2015 starting with 10 cities;
â€¢ Banning of burning of leaves/ biomass;
â€¢ Relevant draft rules, including those pertaining to construction and demolition waste have been notified;
â€¢ Regular co-ordination meetings are being held at ministerial level with Delhi and other State Governments within the National Capital Region (NCR) on 6th April, 13th April, 24th July, 2015 and 6th November,2015 to control environmental pollution in NCR adopting air-shed approach;
â€¢ Short-term plan has been reviewed and long-term plans have been formulated to mitigate pollution in NCR;
â€¢ Stringent industrial standards have been formulated and notified for public/stakeholder's comments and standard for sugar industry, Thermal Power Plant and CETPs have been finalized;
â€¢ Government is giving high priority for public partnership in lane discipline, car pooling, vehicle maintenance, pollution under control certification etc.
â€¢ Out of 3386 major industries, 1782 industries have installed on-line continuous (24X7) monitoring devices.

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